



Information Technology & Telecommunications

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan's Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan's socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, policy and programme advisory services and training. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission

To catalyze the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

Vision

To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

About Newsletter

*To keep abreast of emerging issues relating to ‘**Information Technology & Telecommunication**’ at the national, international and local levels, SDPI brings out a Monthly E-Newsletter.*

This E-newsletter is the outcome of public and private dialogues on the emerging issues related to the subject organized by the SDPI's Study Group. It includes planning and policy recommendations, which are framed by the SDPI's IT and Telecom team. It further carries references from the news items/comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading national and international dailies.

About Study Group on Information Technology and Telecommunications

This group comprises consultants, scientists, educationists and economists who meet periodically to discuss and evaluate current developments in the rapidly evolving fields of telecommunications, computers, data processing, networking, mass media and other issues related to the generation, processing, management and use of information. The purpose of these meetings is to create awareness among different stakeholders belonging to both public and private sectors regarding the importance of exploiting useful information resources, address existing difficulties in this respect, and foresee future developments, which might have an impact on the national economy and society at large. The group also undertakes the preparation of policy and planning recommendations that could subsequently be pursued by the agencies concerned.

[The Study Group has been sharing policy and planning recommendations on the above issues for the last three decades or more. Most of its recommendations are implemented by the government.]

Newspapers Covered:

Dawn	The News	The Express Tribune
The Nation	Business Recorder	Daily Times
Pakistan Observer	Pakistan Today	Urdu Point

Themes Covered

Major Theme:

- Information Technology & Telecommunications

Sub themes/Related topics

- Information Technology
- Telecommunications
- Cybersecurity & Information Security
- Telecommunication Networks
- Mobile & Wireless Communication
- 5G / 6G Technologies
- Broadband & Fiber Optics
- Educational Technology
- IT & Telecom Policy & Regulations

Information Technology & Telecommunications Technology

Public-Private Dialogue on 5G Imperative in Pakistan: The Need for Comprehensive Infrastructure, Economic Readiness and Digital Sovereignty

01. Experts call for radical tax cuts for 5G technology rollout in Pakistan

Source: [SABAH](#), [SABAH News](#), 2026-02-16

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16 (SABAH): The successful rollout and adoption of 5G technology in Pakistan hinges on radical tax cuts and business to business strategy, otherwise the country's transition to 5G will remain in low pace due to crippling taxation, high handset costs, and the lack of industrial use cases. This was crux of a debate on Monday seminar, titled: "5G Imperative in Pakistan: [more >>](#)

02. Experts Call For Radical Tax Cuts For 5G Technology Roll-out In Pakistan

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point Lahore](#), 2026-02-16

ISLAMABAD, (APP - Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 16th Feb, 2026) The successful roll-out and adoption of 5G technology in Pakistan hinges on radical tax cuts and business-to-business strategy, otherwise the country's transition to 5G will remain in low pace due to crippling taxation, high handset costs, and the lack of industrial use cases. This was crux of a debate on Monday seminar, ti..... [more >>](#)

03. Experts call for radical tax cuts for 5G roll-out in Pakistan

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2026-02-17

The successful roll-out and adoption of 5G technology in Pakistan hinges on radical tax cuts and business-to-business strategy, otherwise the country's transition to 5G will remain in low pace due to crippling taxation, high handset costs, and the lack of industrial use cases. This was crux of a debate on Monday seminar, titled: "5G Imperative in Pakistan: The Need for Comprehensive..... [more >>](#)

04. Experts stress radical tax cuts for 5G technology roll-out in Pakistan

Source: [APP](#), [Dunya News](#), 2026-02-17

ISLAMABAD (APP) - The successful roll-out and adoption of 5G technology in Pakistan hinges on radical tax cuts and business-to-business strategy, otherwise the country's transition to 5G will remain in low pace due to crippling taxation, high handset costs, and the lack of industrial use cases. This was crux of a debate on Monday seminar, titled: "5G Imperative in Pakistan: The Need f..... [more >>](#)

05. Experts call for radical tax cuts for 5G technology roll-out in Pakistan

Source: [APP](#), [Associated Press of Pakistan](#), 2026-02-16

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16 (APP): The successful roll-out and adoption of 5G technology in Pakistan hinges on radical tax cuts and business-to-business strategy, otherwise the country's transition to 5G will remain in low pace due to crippling taxation, high handset costs, and the lack of industrial use cases. This was crux of a debate on Monday seminar, titled: "5G Imperative in Pakistan: The [more >>](#)

06. Aggressive tax cuts crucial for successful 5G rollout and adoption in Pakistan

Source: [Hamza Shahnawaz](#), [Pakistan Revenue](#), 2026-02-16

Islamabad, February 16, 2026 – The successful rollout and widespread adoption of 5G technology in Pakistan hinges on radical tax cuts, supportive regulation, and a strong business-to-business (B2B) strategy, experts said on Monday, warning that without decisive reforms, the country's transition to next-generation connectivity will remain sluggish. This consensus emerged during a sem..... [more >>](#)

07. Experts Seek Sharp Tax Cuts to Accelerate 5G Rollout in Pakistan

Source: [Usama Anjum](#), [Phone World](#), 2026-02-16

Telecommunications experts, policymakers, and industry representatives on Monday called for substantial tax reductions and a shift toward business-focused applications to ensure a viable rollout of 5G in Pakistan, warning that excessive taxation and weak industrial demand could slow the country's digital transition. The discussion took place at a seminar titled "5G Imperative in Pak..... [more >>](#)

08. Experts call for radical tax cuts for 5G technology roll-outSource: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-17

Islamabad: SDPI's distinguished Advisor Emeritus Brig (r) Mohammad Yasin termed the forthcoming auction of nearly 600 MHz of spectrum as potentially the largest in Pakistan's history, calling it a structural shift rather than merely a technological upgrade. Yasin was participating in a seminar, on "5G imperative in Pakistan: the need for comprehensive infrastructure, economic rea..... [more >>](#)

09. پاکستان میں فائبر جی کا مستقبل ٹیکس و ادارہ جاتی اصلاحات اور صنعتی حکمت عملی سے مشروط ہے، آئی ٹی ماہرینSource: [APP](#), [Urdu Point Lahore](#), 2026-02-16

اسلام آباد (اُردو پوائنٹ اخبارتازہ ترین - اے پی پی۔ 16 فروری 2026ء) ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن و آئی ٹی ماہرین نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں فائبر جی کا مستقبل ٹیکس و ادارہ جاتی اصلاحات اور صنعتی حکمت عملی سے مشروط ہے، واضح حکمت عملی کے بغیر فا..... [more >>](#)

10. پاکستان میں فائبر جی کا مستقبل ٹیکس اصلاحات اور صنعتی حکمت عملی سے مشروط ہے: ماہرینSource: [SABAH](#), [SABAH News](#), 2026-02-16

اسلام آباد(صبح نیوز) ماہرین اور پالیسی سازوں نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ پاکستان میں فائبر جی ٹیکنالوجی کا کامیاب آغاز بھاری ٹیکسوں میں نمایاں کمی، بزنس ٹو بزنس حکمت عملی، سستے موبائل فونز اور جامع پالیسی و ادارہ جاتی اصلاحات ک..... [more >>](#)

11. پاکستان میں فائبر جی کا مستقبل ٹیکس اصلاحات اور صنعتی حکمت عملی سے مشروط ہے: ماہرینSource: [Sufiyan Paracha](#), [Daily Mudabbir](#), 2026-02-17..... [more >>](#)**5G / 6G Technologies****12. PTA updates 5G auction guidelines**Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-15

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has revised the Information Memorandum (IM) for the upcoming 5G Spectrum Auction, with an informational session scheduled for Monday for prospective applicants. The three main telecom players — Jazz, Zong, and PTCL (which represents the merged Ufone-Telenor entity). No new entrants have shown interest in launchi..... [more >>](#)

13. PTA says 5G spectrum auction to be held on March 10Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-19

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said on Wednesday that 5G spectrum auction would be held on March 10 and no changes were likely to be made in the schedule, saying that the sale was likely to fetch between \$300-\$700 million. The authority is offering 597 megahertz (MHz) in several bands in the upcoming auction and three existing telecom operators have been mandated to o..... [more >>](#)

14. 5G auction in GB, AJK to follow national rolloutSource: [Jamil Nagri](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-20

GILGIT: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman retired Major General Hafeez Ur Rehman has said the federal government will hold a separate auction of 5G spectrum for Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) within months of the nationwide rollout. He was speaking during a meeting with GB caretaker Minister for Information Technology Ghulam Abbas in Islamabad on Thursday to..... [more >>](#)

15. Five G mobile devices to hit Pakistani market soonSource: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-22

ISLAMABAD: With the 5G spectrum auction scheduled for March 10, the Ministry of Industries has also initiated the move to roll out advanced compatible phone devices at the same time that telecom operators are ready. Due to the spectrum auction across several bands, the 4G coverage area in the country will expand, increasing the service area, but this will also push demand for smartphones. Th..... [more >>](#)

16. Five G Spectrum auction in GB to follow nationwide rollout, says Ghulam Abbas

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-23

ISLAMABAD - Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Caretaker Minister for Information Technology Ghulam Abbas on Sunday said the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has assured that the auction of 5G spectrum in the region will take place within one to two months after the nationwide rollout. In an interview with a news wire, he stressed that GB must not lag behind other parts of the country in access to hi..... [more >>](#)

17. AJK to launch 5G from March 10, PM Rathore says

Source: [Tariq Naqash](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-24

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Monday announced that 5G services would be launched in the territory from March 10, describing the move as a "historic milestone" aimed at accelerating digital transformation across the state. In a special message, he said the provision of digital facilities in line with modern-day requirements w..... [more >>](#)

18. IT secretary denies reports about shutdown of internet 'firewall' ahead of 5G spectrum auction

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-26

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology on Wednesday was informed that reports about the shutdown of the so-called internet firewall ahead of the 5G spectrum auction were incorrect. At the outset of the meeting, Syed Aminul Haque, the committee chairman, noted that there were reports regarding the firewall. Meanwhile, Sadiq Memon called for a briefing on th..... [more >>](#)

19. Five G spectrum auction will be held on March 10

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-27

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's long-awaited 5G spectrum auction will be held on March 10, 2026, with major telecom operators already depositing USD45 million as advance participation fees, signalling strong industry interest in the rollout of next-generation mobile services. The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was chaired by Syed Amin ul Haq, [more >>](#)

20. Ahead of 5G spectrum auction, govt denies 'firewall' shutdown

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-27

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology on Thursday was informed that reports about the shutdown of the so-called internet firewall ahead of the 5G spectrum auction were incorrect. At the outset of the meeting, Syed Aminul Haque, the committee chairman, noted that there were reports regarding the firewall. Meanwhile, Sadiq Memon called for a briefing on..... [more >>](#)

Artificial Intelligence

21. 'DeepSeek trained AI model on Nvidia's best chip despite US ban'

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-25

WASHINGTON: Chinese AI startup DeepSeek's latest AI model, set to be released as soon as next week, was trained on Nvidia's most advanced AI chip, the Blackwell, a senior Trump administration official said on Monday, in what could represent a violation of US export controls. The US believes DeepSeek will remove the technical indicators that might reveal its use of American AI chips, t..... [more >>](#)

22. AI policy stuck in limbo

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-02-13

When the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy was approved by the federal cabinet back in July, it was framed as both a launch pad and roadmap to steer the country towards responsible AI adoption, build the government's institutional and regulatory capacity in that regard, catalyse private sector innovation and unlock productivity gains across key sectors, all in a bid to position Pa..... [more >>](#)

23. AI in the classroom

Source: [Ayesha Razzaque](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-02-14

LAST week Abu Dhabi hosted the 'Machines Can Think 2026' conference. Given the region's enthusiastic embrace of AI, the availability of resources for ambitious approaches, and the openness to pursue them, I was most interested in one particular panel discussion session, titled 'AI Classroom — Rethinking Education for the Knowledge Economy.' The panel was attended..... [more >>](#)

24. Jam urges academia–industry alignment to prepare Pakistan for AI-driven future at NUTECH

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-02-14

ISLAMABAD - Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday emphasised the urgent need for aligning academia with industry and preparing Pakistan for the fast-evolving global technological landscape, while addressing a gathering at National University of Technology (NUTECH) as Chief Guest. The event was attended by senior faculty members, students, industry representatives and policymakers. [more >>](#)

25. MoU inked for AI training

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-15

Islamabad: The Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA) and the United Nations University (UNU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Indus AI Week 2026 to accelerate Project GovAI, a digital micro-learning & upskilling program for civil/public servants, says a press release. Coordinated by UNU-EGOV, the collaboration will draw on experts across the UNU system, including UNU-IAS (Tokyo, Ja..... [more >>](#)

26. India plans AI 'data city' on staggering scale in Andhra Pradesh

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-02-15

As India races to narrow the artificial intelligence gap with the United States and China, it is planning a vast new "data city" to power digital growth on a staggering scale, the man spearheading the project says. "The AI revolution is here, no second thoughts about it," said Nara Lokesh, information technology minister for Andhra Pradesh state, which is positioning the c..... [more >>](#)

27. AI Design Era 2026 highlights Pakistan's growing role in AI-driven innovation

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-02-15

LAHORE - The AI Design Era 2026, organised by the Friends of Figma Lahore under the leadership of its founder Muhammad Ali Tariq, successfully brought together designers, founders, and technology leaders to explore emerging trends in AI-driven innovation. The event, held here on Saturday, opened with a welcome address from Faisal Jeddy, CEO of the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), who highlig..... [more >>](#)

28. Haroon inaugurates AI Centre at PITAC

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2026-02-16

LAHORE - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) for Industries Haroon Akhtar Khan inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center here at Pakistan Industrial and Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) on Sunday. Talking to media on this occasion, the SAPM said that it is the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to equip the youth with emerging technologies and skills such as Artificial Int..... [more >>](#)

29. AI and governance

Source: [Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-15

Artificial intelligence (AI) has quietly moved from science fiction into daily life. Today, it writes text, recommends movies, detects diseases, manages traffic, predicts weather and helps governments deliver services. Unlike past technologies, AI does not only extend human muscle or speed; it extends decision-making itself. That is why it excites pol..... [more >>](#)

30. A revolution at our doorstep

Source: [Rehan Sayeed](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-15

We have all heard the phrase quantum leap. This is literally what's going to happen; it's around the corner. Quantum mechanics and the power of Artificial Intelligence are on the verge of bringing about a technological revolution like none before. Most of us have some idea of AI-based applications and the changes they're bringing into..... [more >>](#)

31. From OpenAI to Google, India hosts global AI summit

Source: [Reuters](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-17

NEW DELHI: Top executives from global AI giants will join several world leaders in New Delhi this week for a major artificial intelligence summit, at a time when India is trying to lure more investment in the industry. The country is emerging as a hotspot for AI firms, with Alphabet's Google, Microsoft and Amazon already committing a combined \$68 billion in AI and cloud infrastructure inves..... [more >>](#)

32. AI adoption in public sector to take time, moot told

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-18

ISLAMABAD: The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pakistan's public sector will require time, institutional reform, and capacity building, experts said at a workshop titled "AI Shaping Pakistan's Digital Future". Speaking at the session, industry specialists noted that while AI offers significant opportunities to improve governance and service delivery, its inte..... [more >>](#)

33. Pakistan urged to act faster on AI opportunity

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-21

KARACHI: Pakistan has the talent to compete in the global technology sector but must take firmer policy and investment steps to benefit from the fast-growing artificial intelligence market, said Usman Asif, chief executive officer of Devsinc. Speaking at a technology event in Islamabad, Asif noted that Pakistan produces around 300,000 IT graduates each year, providing a strong workforce base. How..... [more >>](#)

34. Pakistan in an AI world

Source: [Yousuf Nazar](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-23

In 2015, a small gathering in San Francisco made a decision that barely registered in the global media cycle. There were no headlines, no speeches and no sense of historical consequence. Yet, in retrospect, that moment marked the beginning of a structural shift in the global economic order. The founders of OpenAI were not building another technology company. They were attempting to industrialise i..... [more >>](#)

35. Pakistan's AI moment

Source: [Dr Javaid Laghari](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-24

At the recent Indus AI Week in Islamabad, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced an ambitious plan to invest \$1 billion in AI by 2030. The initiative includes introducing an AI curriculum in all federal schools, awarding over 1,000 fully funded PhD scholarships in AI by 2030 to build world-class research capacity, and training one million non-IT professionals in AI skills. This is a welcome and..... [more >>](#)

36. AI Dictates Youth Social Contract

Source: [Dr Luay Shabaneh](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-25

In exploring the latest developments in AI within Pakistan, one trend stands out: youth involvement in AI marks a significant generational transition already under way, redefining opportunity, authority and the social contract between generations. Consider the story of a school-aged student from Sindh who taught himself to code and created an AI-powered robot that responds to voice commands. Teena..... [more >>](#)

Broadband & Fiber Optics

37. CTD unit activated in Gilgit Baltistan

Source: [Jamil Nagri](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-14

GILGIT: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has been made operational in Gilgit-Baltistan and a dedicated CTD police station has been formally established in Gilgit. In a statement, GB Police said the CTD had begun work with 250 officers and personnel, while recruitment for another 600 posts would be completed during the current year to strengthen the unit's capacity. The state..... [more >>](#)

Cybersecurity & Information Security

38. SBP launches 'Cyber Shield' to protect banking system, customers

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-17

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan on Monday launched 'Cyber Shield — the Cyber Resilience Strategy for Regulated Entities', an initiative aimed at strengthening the safety and robustness of the country's banking and financial system. "The strategy is designed to better protect banks and financial institutions from cyber threats, thus ensuring that people and busine..... [more >>](#)

39. Cybersecurity detects a new malware for Android devices

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-19

ISLAMABAD: A global cybersecurity company has warned Pakistanis that the company has detected a new malware for Android devices, which is infecting every application installed on these devices. According to a report issued by the Kaspersky on Wednesday, the malware is distributed in multiple forms – it can be preinstalled directly into devices' firmware, embedded within system app..... [more >>](#)

40. Rising cybercrime complaints: NCCIA seeks approval for 838 new posts

Source: [Rana Ghalam Qadir](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-22

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has formally requested the federal government to create 838 new posts in order to effectively and promptly address the rapidly increasing number of complaints being lodged by citizens across the country. The Director General (DG) of NCCIA has written a letter to the secretary of the Ministry of Interior seeking approval for the creat..... [more >>](#)

41. Citizens fall prey to online frauds

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-23

MULTAN: Social media account hacking has surged in South Punjab, leaving citizens financially and mentally distressed as cyber fraudsters exploit digital platforms to extort money through deceitful tactics. Local citizens say hackers use increasingly sophisticated methods to gain unauthorised access to personal accounts, particularly online platforms. Once access is secured, fraudsters imperson..... [more >>](#)

42. Pakistani student excels in UK Cybersecurity Programme

Source: [News Wire](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-23

Lahore - A Pakistani student has achieved a remarkable academic milestone in the United Kingdom, bringing pride not only to his family and community but also to Pakistan. Khurram Qamar has successfully completed his Master's degree in Cybersecurity from the University of Hertfordshire, marking a significant accomplishment and reflecting the growing presence and excellence of Pakistani student..... [more >>](#)

Educational Technology

43. No ethics in AI

Source: [Mohsin Fareed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-10

AI HAS increasingly come to dominate our everyday life. From text translations and drafting documents to preparing tax returns and taking medical decisions, AI is becoming a trustworthy assistant. Nevertheless, while AI assists in output, it also inculcates unethical behaviour. People are prone to engaging in fraudulent behaviour when a large language model does their task; in other words, as oppo..... [more >>](#)

44. Shaza Fatima urges shift from being technology consumers to creators

Source: [Salis bin Perwaiz](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-16

Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima has said the country can transform its economic trajectory in months, not decades, if every youngster is given internet access, smart devices and training in digital skills. Addressing more than 7,000 students gathered for an AI training entrance test at the Hockey Stadium during 'Indus AI Week', she said the government had u..... [more >>](#)

45. IT boot camp on digital skills

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-18

DIR: The District Youth Office in collaboration with the district administration arranged a week-long IT boot camp on digital skills. The course is aimed at equipping young students with practical skills, enhancing their technical knowledge and enabling them to earn online while pursuing education. The training focused on preparing youth for modern digital opportunities and promoting self-reliance..... [more >>](#)

46. 'Truly embarrassing': Indian professor's false claim over building Chinese-made AI robot sparks outrage

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-18

An Indian professor has falsely suggested a Chinese-made robot dog displayed at a major AI summit was developed by her university, prompting backlash in a situation that politicians derided as "embarrassing" on Wednesday. The silver mechanical dog — a model sold by Chinese startup Unitree — appeared at a booth run by the private Galgotias University at this week's A..... [more >>](#)

47. The 30-second epiphany: a learner's dilemma in Silicon Age

Source: [Mansoor Raza](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-18

For three decades, I have been a scavenger of the human condition. My life has been defined by a singular, obsessive pursuit: to peel back the layers of any phenomenon —be it a political revolution, a crumbling urban settlement or the quiet grief of a stranger —until I reach its core. To do this, I relied on a self-imposed trinity of inquiry: the philosophical, the historical and the p..... [more >>](#)

48. Clear research priorities and evaluation mechanisms underlined

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-19

PESHAWAR: The 6th International Conference on Computational Intelligence & Internet of Things (ICCIoT-2026) concluded at University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar on Wednesday. The conference was organized by UET Peshawar in collaboration with Southeast University, Cardiff University, the International Water Management Institute, and industry partner Elegancia, reflecting strong int..... [more >>](#)

49. From human minds to thinking machines

Source: [Dr Murtaza Khuhro](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-19

For most of human history, there was only one thinking machine on Earth — the human brain. Everything we call civilization—language, religion, science, economy, law, art, and politics — emerged from this fragile biological organ shaped by millions of years of evolution. Then, on November 30, 2022, something unprecedented happened. With the public launch of ChatGPT, humanity [more >>](#)

50. Cybersecurity drive launched in schools

Source: [Zaigham Naqvi/Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-27

ISLAMABAD: In response to a surge in cyberattacks and growing digital threats, the federal government has announced emergency measures across federal educational institutions. Acting on special directives from the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has instructed all educational institutions in Islamabad - including private schools and colleges in both ur..... [more >>](#)

Information Technology

60. The future is IT

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-23

Pakistan recently concluded an AI week to mark its progress in the information technology (IT) sector and to have a roadmap for the future. In recent years, the country has given much-needed priority to the IT sector, acknowledging that it is one of the areas where it can work independently without diktats from the IMF, on which Pakistan unfortunately consistently relies. This attention seems to b..... [more >>](#)

61. Pakistan's \$12 billion opportunity

Source: [Noman Zulfiqar](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-23

There is a shift happening right now that most Pakistanis don't know about, but should. An 11-year-old in Lisbon just built a working Facebook clone. A Swedish duo is making \$700,000 annually from a startup they launched seven months ago. Neither had formal programming training. They used something called 'vibe coding' -- and it's about to reshape Pakistan's entire te..... [more >>](#)

62. The profundity of 'everything is a computer' era

Source: [Abubakar Ismail](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-23

For decades, we have treated the "digital world" like a separate room we chose to enter. We "went to the computer lab," "logged onto the internet," or "checked our phones." There was a clear, comforting wall between the physical world — things you could kick, like a car or a tractor and the digital world — things you could only see, like [more >>](#)

63. MoU signed for digitalisation of Haj operation

Source: [Muhammad Anis](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-25

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and Ministry of Information Technology on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the digitalisation of the Hajj Operation. The digitalisation

of the Hajj Operation would help in doing away with unnecessary delays and human errors in the process. There would be end-to-end digitalisation of the Hajj operation start..... [more >>](#)

IT & Telecom Policy & Regulations

64. Fasset partners with HRL to revolutionise digital investment, financial inclusion in Pakistan

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-17

ISLAMABAD - Fasset, an American-founded digital banking and investment platform, announced its plans to enter the Pakistani market through a strategic partnership with Habib Rafiq Limited (HRL) at a high-profile event in Islamabad, signaling a major shift in how global capital interacts with Pakistani assets. The gathering drew an influential crowd of senior government officials, business leaders..... [more >>](#)

65. Next generation spectrum auction to fetch \$300-700m: PTA

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-19

ISLAMABAD: The upcoming next generation spectrum auction might fetch \$300 to \$700 million to the national kitty, with the authorities expecting that the auction will increase internet speed up to 25 times with the launch of 5G. The auction, scheduled to be held on March 10, will be conducted in rounds and will increase the speed of 4G technology by five times and 5G by 25 times. Briefing the med..... [more >>](#)

66. Software companies face higher borrowing costs, tougher scrutiny as AI threatens businesses

Source: [Matt Tracy and Saeed Azhar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-24

Software companies are delaying debt deals as higher borrowing costs and tougher scrutiny from lenders weigh on the sector, at a time when mounting pressure from artificial intelligence threatens their business models, industry sources said. Software firms both in the US and elsewhere have already paused or postponed fundraising efforts as lenders and investors expect AI to upend the industry..... [more >>](#)

67. 'DeepSeek trained AI model on Nvidia's best chip despite US ban'

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-25

WASHINGTON: Chinese AI startup DeepSeek's latest AI model, set to be released as soon as next week, was trained on Nvidia's most advanced AI chip, the Blackwell, a senior Trump administration official said on Monday, in what could represent a violation of US export controls. The US believes DeepSeek will remove the technical indicators that might reveal its use of American AI chips, t..... [more >>](#)

Mobile & Wireless Communication

68. Ride hailing services to be digitally registered

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-10

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration has decided to introduce formal registration for all online taxi and bike ride services operating in the federal capital. The move aims to bring all drivers and vehicles under a single digital system and stop unregistered transport services from operating on city roads. According to officials, the registration process will cover all drivers and ve..... [more >>](#)

69. Free Wi-Fi service suspended at Lahore railway station

Source: [Talib Fareedi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-13

LAHORE: The much-publicised free Wi-Fi facility at Lahore Railway Station has been suspended after railway authorities allegedly failed to clear payments to the internet service provider, leaving passengers frustrated.

Commuters arriving at the station continued scanning QR codes displayed at various locations in an attempt to access the service, only to find that the facility was no longer oper..... [more >>](#)

70. Jazz to launch Samsung Galaxy S26 series in Pakistan

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-13

ISLAMABAD: Jazz has partnered with global technology leader Samsung to introduce the Samsung Galaxy S26 series in Pakistan, advancing access to premium, 5G-ready devices that support a next-generation digital lifestyle. The collaboration aims to accelerate adoption of high-performance smartphones by pairing Samsung's flagship innovation with JazzWorld's nationwide digital ecosyste..... [more >>](#)

71. 600MHz spectrum auction next month

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-15

LAHORE: Federal Minister for IT and Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the government will auction the 600-megahertz spectrum next month, a move aimed at expanding mobile internet capacity and improving service quality across the country. According to an official statement issued on Saturday, the minister said the additional spectrum would help address connectivity constraints and support the gro..... [more >>](#)

72. Indus AI Week conference at LCCI; 600 MHz spectrum to be auctioned next month: minister

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-15

LAHORE: Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the government is taking rapid steps to promote the digital economy and investment in the technology sector. She said that next month, the 600 MHz spectrum will be auctioned, significantly increasing mobile internet capacity and providing citizens with fast, high-quality, and reliable internet. She added that this will re..... [more >>](#)

73. Online biometric verification for vehicle transfers launched in Punjab

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-16

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has announced an ambitious plan to conclude all pending cases involving death sentences and life imprisonment within the next 45 days. In an official release, the court stated that the overall number of pending criminal matters has dropped considerably under the stewardship of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. Since October 2024, the backlog has been reduced from 19,5..... [more >>](#)

74. EDB unveils draft of 'Mobile and Electronics Policy 2026-33'

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-18

ISLAMABAD: The Engineering Development Board (EDB) on Tuesday unveiled the draft of the Mobile and Electronics Policy 2026-33, projecting that the re-export of refurbished mobile phones will generate annual revenues between \$300 million and \$400 million. This was announced by EDB's CEO Hammad Mansoor, during a briefing Haroon Akhtar, the special assistant to the prime minister on indust..... [more >>](#)

75. Our digitisation scorecard

Source: [Mansoor Ahmad](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-19

LAHORE: The digital payments revolution is transforming economies across Asia, strengthening state capacity, expanding financial inclusion and shrinking shadow economies. India and China have built global-scale digital payment ecosystems, and Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in mobile financial services. Pakistan, despite launching its own instant payment system, remains far behind in tran..... [more >>](#)

76. Apple to manufacture iPhones in Pakistan

Source: [Zafar Bhutta](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-19

ISLAMABAD: American tech giant Apple is set to start manufacturing iPhones in Pakistan after the government has agreed to offer incentives in the proposed Mobile and Electronics Manufacturing Framework. Apple has also agreed to refurbish iPhones in Pakistan for re-export under the new framework. The government expects \$100 million from the re-export of refurbished iPhones in the first year. App..... [more >>](#)

77. Mobile tariffs, service quality; 'PTA committed to addressing concerns'

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-23

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has assured that it will address recent concerns raised on social media regarding mobile tariffs, service quality, and unauthorised deductions, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to consumer protection. To create a structured and fair tariff framework, PTA has notified the Mobile Tariff Regulations, 2025, said a news release. [more >>](#)

Telecommunication Networks

78. UK launches digital e-visa system for Pakistani applicants

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-25

The United Kingdom has rolled out a new electronic visa (e-visa) system for Pakistani nationals, removing the requirement for physical visa stickers on passports and shifting the process entirely online. Announcing the update, British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott said applicants will now complete their visa applications digitally and visit a visa application centre only once to p..... [more >>](#)

79. Badin, Sanghar districts to get high-speed connectivity

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-16

KARACHI: Pakistan's digital expansion push gathered momentum as new fibre and broadband projects were rolled out for rural Sindh, with the government linking improved connectivity to economic growth, youth employment and future-ready technology adoption. Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja reaffirmed the government's commitment to accele..... [more >>](#)

80. Networking Doesn't Work

Source: [Sirajuddin Aziz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-16

Networking is not necessarily a great virtue. The ability to network may not necessarily be the most desired trait that will unfold success, both personal and professional. Many young executives (mostly entrants to the world of business and work) arrive with the misbelief that they can frog-leap up the ladder of growth and recognition, based on how they "network" with people of importa..... [more >>](#)

81. Jazz, USF launch Rs668m Badin project

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2026-02-17

KARACHI: Jazz and the Universal Service Fund have signed an agreement to launch a Rs668 million project aimed at expanding digital connectivity in Badin, bringing mobile voice and broadband services to underserved communities. The agreement was formalised at a ceremony in Karachi attended by Governor of Sindh Kamran Tessori and Minister for IT and Telecom Shaza Fatima. Under the project, 45 new te..... [more >>](#)

82. PTCL losses widen to Rs10.46b in FY25

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2026-02-18

ISLAMABAD: Continuing its loss-making streak, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) posted a net loss of more than Rs10.46 billion in FY2025 despite earning revenue of Rs168.80 billion, while its total assets stood

at Rs485.23 billion, the finance ministry has reported. In its report on the financial condition of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) for the period July 2024 to June 2025, t..... [more >>](#)

83. Austria Business Forum; JazzWorld chief highlights Pakistan's digital growth story

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#) , 2026-02-21

LAHORE: Pakistan's evolving investment narrative and digital transformation agenda were brought into focus during a high-level discussion led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Austria Business Forum, where Pakistani and Austrian leadership engaged international investors on emerging opportunities under the newly launched "Invest in Pakistan NOW!" initiative. According [more >>](#)

84. Indecision delays satellite internet

Source: [Zafar Bhutta](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#) , 2026-02-22

ISLAMABAD: Low earth orbit (LEO) operators have held the government and regulatory bodies responsible for delay in issuing licenses for the launch of satellite-based internet services in Pakistan. Industry experts point out that Pakistan has invested an estimated \$400 million in two geo-stationary earth orbit (GEO) satellites, but these assets did not generate meaningful commercial returns. Pak..... [more >>](#)

85.PTA launches digital assistant to facilitate telecom consumers

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#) , 2026-02-25

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has launched the "PTA Digital Assistant" to provide ease and facilitation to telecom consumers with general guidance on telecom services and complaint procedures. The deployed "PTA Digital Assistant" is available on WhatsApp (03150055055), offering menu-driven options that provide relevant information quickly. The solution r..... [more >>](#)



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